

Quest for the Poetic

by Jeanne Larson (April Demo

Artist)

I love to read poetry . . . everything from Haiku poet R. H. Blyth and Longfellow to Robert Service and Louis Jenkins. I will admit to even writing poetry occasionally. I don't deceive myself. It's not good poetry, but I get such a rush from crafting thoughts by honing and assembling words. It is, I suppose, the same feeling I get when I stand before that piece of white watercolor paper and try to assemble with color, value, design and emotion an idea that has special meaning to me. It's the process of pulling together a chaotic mix of ideas and materials, and fine-tuning and polishing,



that I find endlessly intriguing.

My inspiration comes most often from nature. The variety, complexity and beauty never ceases to amaze me. One of my continuing themes is excess. It's so interesting that

Don't forget!
Our April meeting is on the
FIRST Thursday of the
month, April 6, to avoid con-
licts with Easter week
events.

nature produces beauty in excess of function. A simple seed pod, a few leaves, roots . . . the basics of survival, not only perform their scientific and biological function, but they exhibit an amazing array of colors, shapes and textures. It is the pursuit of these incredible excesses that keeps me returning to the studio 20 years after my first encounter with watercolor. —cont. on p. 3

Members' Day 2006

by MarySue Krueger

Mark your calendars for Members' Day, Saturday June 3, 2006, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. This exciting day of painting demos and displays will be held RAIN OR SHINE in Bryant Lake Park Pavillion in Eden Prairie, a spacious, well-lit and completely enclosed structure. Box lunches are available with pre-registration.

The roster of four demo and four display artists is designed to provide inspiration for a summer of painting adventures. The day features a variety of subject matter; landscapes, abstracts, florals, still life, and figures. Demonstration artists Dave Rickert, Lana Grow, Joyce Gow and Dan Wiemer will each paint for an hour, and take questions afterwards. Display artists Jeanne Long, Jean Meyer, John Fleming and Kathy Braud will have work on display.

Registration forms are in this issue of Brushstrokes, and must be received by Thursday, May 25. ■

April Mini-Show Theme—
Portraits, self- or otherwise (the
"otherwise" could be a portrait of
a barn or anything else you want
to bring in).



deliver artwork:

Saturday, April 22, 10 am - 1 pm

Reception and Awards Ceremony:

FRIDAY, May 5, 6:30-8:30 pm

Coonial Church of Edina, 6200 Colonial
Way, Edina, MN For directions, see
www.colonialchurch.org or call 952-925-
2711

New MnWS Pres—

Dan
Weimer



During our March meeting, Dan Weimer was elected to succeed Andy Evansen as the next President of the Minnesota Watercolor Society.

Dan studied art and design at Iowa State University and received his Bachelor of Arts degree (graphic design) in 1986. Following college, he worked at a Minneapolis design firm. Three years later, in 1989, he began his freelance career. He juggles a passion to create commercial illustration as well as fine art.

—cont. on p. 3

MESSAGE *from the President*



This past Sunday, I read a disturbing column in the 'Opinion' section of the Star Tribune. The topic was the educational competitiveness, or lack thereof, of K-12 students in this country compared to the rest of the world. While the column dwelled on math and science scores, it brought to light the way our society has been slowly reducing the resources invested in our children's education. They mentioned how China was planning on building 800 (!) new universities in the next 10 years; how children in Singapore routinely study 5 languages; and how American 12th graders were dead last among 20 nations taking a mathematics test in 1999. Again, the article's main focus was on our economical future, but I couldn't help but wonder about our future as a society in general. We're all aware of the tough financial times in the educational system these days, and the fact that the first things that get eliminated when crunch time arrives are music and the arts.

I'm not sure how well-rounded the art programs are in my kids' schools. If the children in your lives are anything like mine, the amount of information you receive from them on what transpires at school is usually limited to what they did at recess and what they had for lunch. I am confident in the fact that the teachers do the best they can with what they're given. I also know that without a supportive environment outside of school, a child has a pretty good chance of falling behind regardless of how good their teachers are. This is turning into a depressing rant, but I don't mean it to be. I want it to be an opportunity wake-up call.

Children have a way of getting to the core of creativity, without all the hangups we as adults experience, and being around that freedom can be very therapeutic. Check with your local communities, and see if there are opportunities for volunteers to come into a school to paint or even talk at a career day. My guess is they'd be thrilled. I've been volunteering at my children's elementary school since they were in kindergarten as 'picture person'. It's a program where the community education office supplies the volunteer with a few reproductions of famous paintings every month, along with an outline for discussion, to present to classrooms. They are so excited to see me when I come in, even at the higher grade levels. That's how I'm known to them now. When I walk down the halls, there are always plenty of kids yelling out "Hi, Picture Person!"

If for nothing else than selfish reasons, we should be making sure the arts are promoted as much as possible. A society that is appreciative and well-versed in the arts guarantees our survival. What better way than exposing our kids to art every chance we get? If they are continually taught that other subjects are more important for their long-term well being, then that's exactly what they're going to think when they grow up. I've let my daughter play hooky for an afternoon so we could spend a day together at the Minneapolis Art Institute. That was over a year ago, and she still brings it up all the time. When her friends come over, she always guides them downstairs to my studio, and I'm amazed at all the questions they have and how fascinated they are. She has said how lucky she is, because she thinks she's the only kid in middle school who has a dad who's an artist.

Here in Hastings, Barb Pinc has been running an art school for many years. When asked how she got started, she replied that she "was concerned that the kids get so little art in the school system. This gives them a chance to work on what they want in a small group setting. I encourage them to enter competitions such as the State Fair, and many of my students have been champions. I've watched them grow up, and a few are even art teachers themselves now." And as an added perk, she says, the kids that come to her are the ones who want to be there.

Your next president, Dan Wiemer, is also president of Art Reach in the Red Wing area. The woman who started it has a degree in art therapy, and she found that high risk kids who didn't do well in many other aspects of their education or lives could focus on art. Dan got involved because he feels it's a wonderful chance to give back. He doesn't have children of his own, but he realizes that unless kids come from an artistic family, they may not get that little extra push that encourages them.

I don't think I've quoted a movie in a month or two, so I can slip in another reference without feeling too guilty. In *The Breakfast Club*, a group of kids are forced to spend a Saturday in detention at their school, under the watch of an out-of- —cont. on p. 3



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BrushStrokes Newsletter

BrushStrokes is published monthly, September through June. Deadlines are the 15th of the month. Send letters to the editor and art related stories that help inform or educate members to:

MnWS BrushStrokes Editor
15 Hope Circle
Hudson, WI 54016-8708
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Advertising Placement

For ad rates or to place advertising, contact
Mary Hanson 952-476-6896

Quest for Poetry

—cont. from p. 1

I had the good fortune to grow up in a family without television, so much of my childhood was spent with my younger sister, cross-legged on the living room floor, with paper, scissors, crayons and the Montgomery Ward catalogue spread all around us, making "great works of art." The process of creating order and ideas from chaos still fascinates me.

I've met such inspirational artists along the way and by entering shows and competitions, acquired the confidence to approach my art as a business, as well as a beloved journey. Early in my career, I was lucky to be accepted into several good, reputable galleries and was pleasantly surprised that my watercolors actually sold! I've since learned that selling is a cyclical thing, but it's a great motivator and keeps me on my toes, reminding me that as painters can never

Dan Weimer

—cont. from p. 1

While his paintings adorn living rooms across the country, his illustrations are used by Paul Masson wines, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Pillsbury, Chippewa spring water and Bakers Square Restaurants, to name just a few.

Watercolor has been Dan's media of choice for the last twelve years. "I truly love the spontaneity of watercolor," he said. "Watercolor, in particular, is ideally suited to intuitive painting." The fluid medium lends itself to a unique decision-making process as the painting develops. ■

Message from the President

—cont. from p. 2

of a teacher. There's a scene where he's chatting with a janitor, expressing his dislike for the kids and his concerns for the future. He says, "this is the thought that wakes me up in the middle of the night. That these kids, twenty years from now, are gonna be taking care of us." And the janitor smirks and replies, "I wouldn't count on it." If we want to count on our world having a future where the arts are considered an essential part of life, let's start by making it important to our kids. There is no more willing audience for us, I can tell you that.




▲ "Aloha", by April Demo Artist Jeanne Larson.

get too comfortable with where we are at the moment.

I continue to love the investigative aspect of painting and though I allow myself the luxury of repeating myself occasionally as an exploratory tool, it's the never-ending quest for the poetic and passionate in my work that keeps me returning to my studio day after day, year after year.

Paint-Out, Art Sale and Ice Cream Social

All Twin Cities artists are invited to participate in the second annual paint-out and mini show June 10, 2006 at Wood Lake Nature Park in Richfield, sponsored by the Richfield Arts Commission and Richfield Parks and Recreation. Last year we had a good turn-out of artists. This year we are adding an ice-cream social to the afternoon art sale, and increasing our publicity, to draw more art viewers and purchasers.

From 9 a.m. until noon, paint along any of the several miles of trails around and through the wetlands of Wood Lake. Then from 1-3 p.m., bring your painting and three or four others to the Wood Lake Center building, where you can show and sell your work. There is no wall space for hanging paintings, but there are tables and chairs to prop them against. A 15% commission will be charged.

The public will be invited to walk the park to see the artists working in the morning and return to view finished work in the afternoon. The morning paint-out will be weather-permitting, of course, but the afternoon sale will be held indoors, rain or shine. There are several restaurants within walking distance for lunch before the afternoon sale and there are restrooms in the park building.

Take 35W to the 66th street exit. East on 66th about 2 blocks to the stoplight at Lake Shore Drive. Right at the light. The park is on your right.

Questions? Contact Ron Wilson 612-243-1315 or ronwilson6644@yahoo.com. ■

Even though we're still in the run-up to the Spring Show, it's time to start planning ahead for fall. Fall Show Chair CeCeile Hartleib is seeking volunteers for Fall Show tasks. If you can help, please call her at 651-290-0277. No experience needed.

Artist Calls

►The American Plains Artists hosts the 22nd Annual Juried Exhibit of traditional and representational artworks depicting the American Plains region—the landscape, wildlife, peoples, and way of life in historical or modern times, Oct 6–Nov 19, 2006 at the Great Plains Art Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska. Awards include a \$2,000 Best of Show and a minimum \$3,500 Art Purchase(s) by the Great Plains Art Museum for their permanent collection.

Deadline are August 19 for digital entries and August 24, 2006 for slide entries. For a prospectus, download the form from <http://www.americanplainsartists.com/APACallforEntries.htm> or send a SASE to American Plains Artists, c/o Helen Clements, 1005 N. W. 12th St., Andrews, TX 79714. For more information please visit www.americanplainsartists.com.

►The application deadline for the Eagan Art Festival has been extended to April 7. The festival will be held June 24-25 on the grounds of the Eagan Community Center on Pilot Knob Road in Eagan.

This is a juried art festival featuring fine art and original handmade crafts, as well as family entertainment, children's art activities, and food. For the extended deadline, artists are sought in the following media: Drawing, Painting, Pastels, Multimedia, Book Arts, Fiber Arts, Dolls, Sculpture and Stained Glass. Applications must be postmarked by April 7. An exhibitor tent will be available to provide overhead protection for artists' displays.

Proceeds from the festival help sustain Eagan Art House, a non-profit organization committed to bringing quality art activities to the Dakota County region.

For application information, go to www.eaganarthouse.org or call 763-218-0284. ■

Space is still available in the MnWS Fall 2006 Workshop with Mary Alice Braukman. A registration form was included in the February issue of Brushstrokes, or download one from our website www.minnesotawatercolors.com

MEMBER *happenings*

Send member news to: *BrushStrokes*, 15 Hope Circle, Hudson, WI 54016-8708, or email to lbaur@mac.com. Images are welcome and will be used as space permits.

Kathy Braud will be exhibiting at the Hennepin County Medical Center in the Skyway Gallery April 7 - June 30, 2006. Reception opening event: 1:30 - 3:30 Friday, April 7, 2006.

Also, Kathy's watercolor and ink painting, "Dusk-Little Falls Depot," has been selected for inclusion in the Red River Watercolor's Annual National Juried Watermedia Exhibition, May 1 - June 20, 2006 at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead, MN. Robert Burrridge, Juror. This exhibit acceptance is her 3rd in a 10 year period and she will receive RRWS Signature Status.

Dick Green, TWSA Master, WW, SDWS, RRWS, also had a painting accepted into the Red River Watercolor Society's 13th Annual National Juried Watermedia Exhibition.

Karen Knutson, TWSA, won the Best Watercolor Award at the Elk River Area Alliance 2006 Exhibition for her painting, "Balance of Time." The award was a \$300 cash award. She also had the painting, "Quitting Time," accepted into the Northwest Watercolor 2006 Open



▲ "Balance of Time" by Karen Knutson.

Exhibition, held in Seattle, Washington.

In addition, "Wheels of Time," an acrylic painting by Karen Knutson was accepted into the Red River Watercolor Society 2006

Exhibition. Her website is www.karenknutson.com.

CeCeile Hartleib has a painting on display at the Governor's Residence. She reports, "A spokesperson for Mary Pawlenty called me to see if I would like to display my painting, "Cathedral of St. Paul," which she had seen at the State Fair, in the Governor's residence. I told her that I had sold this painting to Garrison Keillor but that I had another piece which she may be interested in. It is an oil painting, which



▲ "Landmark Center, St. Paul" by CeCeile Hartleib.

I painted en plein-air last fall called "Landmark Center, St. Paul." I took it to her spokesperson at the residence and she hung it in the entry room. It will be displayed there for a year unless I decide to remove it." [Ceile adds that this doesn't mean she's a member of the same political party as the Pawlenty's . . . —ed.]

Congratulations Everyone! ■

Welcome!!

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Two Requests for Help

Here are two opportunities to share our love of watercolor with the wider world:

►Joyce Juster, a licensed psychologist, has been using watercolor in working with a client, and is seeking information on watercolor classes specifically for those who are chronically mentally ill. She says of her client's work, "the unfolding of her self-expression in this medium is quite lovely." If anyone knows of such classes, preferably not too far from Bloomington, please contact her at jljuster@msn.com.

►Melissa Kappauf, Program Director for Sarah Care Adult Day Services of Savage is looking for one or more watercolor artists who would volunteer to present for them at their center in Savage. She writes "I would love to have a painting club for some of our participants about once a month." Call her at 952-465-0555 if you might be able to help. ■

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the WORKshopper

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Jeanne Larson

- ▶2006–Jun 15-17.
- ▶2006–Jul 17-21.

Both at the Art Colony of Grand Marais. For either workshop, contact: Jane Johnson, Director of the Art Colony at 218-387-2737 or 800-385-9595 or email arts@boreal.org. See www.GrandMaraisArtColony.org for details.

Mark Granlund

- ▶2006–Saturday, May 6, 8 am – 2 pm. Spring Ephemeral Watercolor Workshop, Hidden Falls Park, Saint Paul, MN.

Students will explore and document one of the most abundant areas in Saint Paul for spring ephemeral plants. Plants we encounter may include; jack-in-the-pulpit, blood root, wild ginger, dutchman's breeches, bluebells, water ash and more! Time will be given to discuss proper etiquette for off-trail artmaking, drawing and painting demonstration, and critique of participant work. Bring a picnic lunch. Cost: \$25

To register contact Mark Granlund: 651-917-0489 or at www.mgranlund.com.

Jan Fabian Wallake

- ▶2006–Nov 11-14. Brevard Watercolor Society, Cape Canaveral, FL. Contact: Linda Neal, 321-751-5520.
- ▶2006–Jul 31- Aug 4. Art-in-the-Mountains, Bend, Oregon. Contact: 541-923-2648.
- ▶2006–Aug 27- Sep 1. Dillman's Art Resort, Lac du Flambeau, WI. Contact: 715-588-3143.
- ▶Jan has a once-a-month, three-hour class in Roseville. If you are interested in joining this fun



MnWS Workshops

Fall 2006 Workshop Oct 10–13, 2006 Mary Alice Braukman

For MnWS workshop information contact
Bonnie Crouch, coordinator (952-945-0682)
Dianne Jandt, registration (952-891-2375)
or *John O'Leary, publicity (952-888-0638)*

and friendly group, call Jan at 651-351-1301 (no long term commitment—come when you can, pay only for the class you attend).

Karlyn Holman

- ▶May 2-17, 2006. Paint and Tour Ireland with Karlyn Holman. Fully escorted tour, open to painters and non-painters alike. For brochure call 715.373.2922 or go to www.karlynholman.com

Lana Grow

- ▶April 3-7, 2006. Aqua Media & Collage/ Experimental and Energizing. Limited enrollment—10 students. Contact: Edina Art

Northstar News

April 20. *Don Andrews demo.*

May 25 (4th Thurs). *Marie Hammond demo.*

For meeting info contact *Judy Fawcett (651) 731-2972*

Meeting location is Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 W. County Rd. C2 at Snelling in Roseville.

www.northstarwatercolorssociety.com

Center, 612-915-6600.

- ▶Fall 2006 (dates TBA). Aqua Media & Collage/Experimental and Energizing. White Bear Center for the Arts. Contact: Sue Ruthford, 651-407-5096.

Karen Knutson

- ▶May 15-17, 2006 (Mon-Wed); 9 a.m.–4 p.m. "Starting with Abstract—Moving to Traditional" \$200 Duluth Art Institute members (\$240 non-members). A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required upon registration.

Contact: Duluth Art Institute, (218) 733-7560

John Salminen

- ▶October 9-13, 2006 (Mon-Fri), 9 a.m.–4 p.m. \$375 Duluth Art Institute members (\$425 non-members). A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required upon registration. Contact: Duluth Art Institute, (218) 733-7560.

Also, don't forget The Paramount Arts District in St. Cloud will host a 3-day watercolor workshop with Frank Francese June 7, 8, 9, 2006, 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (See the March issue for details or call the contact number below.) Cost is \$210. Contact: Melissa Gohman: (320) 257-3112.

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MNWS *calendar*

Programs are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm.

April

Apr 6 (Note: First Thursday of the month): Jeanne Larson demo

May

Friday, May 5: Spring Show Awards Reception at Colonial Church of Edina

June

Saturday, June 3: Members' Day, see registration form in this issue.

Summer 2006

No regular meetings in June, July or August.

LOCATION: Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN (Corner of 70th St. S. and Hwy 100)

www.minnesotawatercolors.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MnWS Membership Dues:

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- Couple/Family: \$35
- Seniors (65+): \$23

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— MnWS Mission Statement